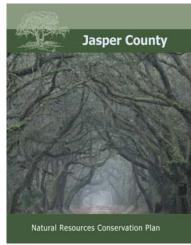


Natural Resources Comprehensive Plan Adopted by County Council



"Never doubt that a small, thoughtful group of concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

-Margaret Mead

At a November 2006 meeting, the Jasper County Council voted to include the *Jasper County Natural Resources Conservation Plan* as an attachment to the current county Comprehensive Plan. Many of you may recall attending the initial community meetings at the Blue Heron that began two years ago to develop this Plan. The Jasper District views this decision as a major success for conservation in the County.

The Jasper County Natural Resources Conservation Plan was developed to address a community concern for the unique and diverse natural amenities and traditional land management practices in Jasper County. The Jasper Soil and Water Conservation District, with support from SC Department of Natural Resources, SC Sea Grant Consortium, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, led the effort to gather public input. Over 20 public agencies and various community members played a role in the development of this Plan that was initiated early 2005. This document reflects public concerns, input, and goals for the County's natural resources and the quality of life surrounding them. The foremost goals of this Plan were to assure preservation and conservation of our County's water quality, wildlife populations, natural areas, and working farms and plantations.

Thank you to all our affiliate members whose support assisted with this tremendous effort and to all the Focus Group members who helped write the Plan. Copies of this Plan should be available by March at the Learning Center and on our website. The District plans to strive toward implementing the suggestions of this Plan throughout 2007 and anticipate your support on issues such as developing minimum buffers for waterways and roads, agricultural districts, and a County Conservation

Jasper Receives 2005 "District of the Year Award" for SC!

The Jasper District was selected as the winner of the **2005 South Carolina Outstanding Conservation District Award!** The honor, determined by the South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts, was presented to the District at an awards banquet in Myrtle Beach at the House of Blues in January 2006. This award was presented to the commissioners and District for their hard work, including:

- County Natural Resources Conservation Plan
- 1,000 students learn at the Learning Center annually
- 10,000 annual visitors to the Nature Trail and exhibit room.
- Community Conservation Partnerships.



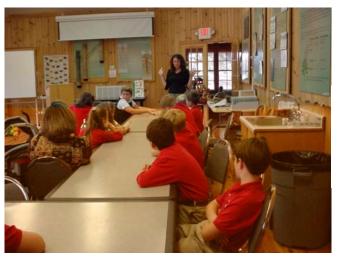
2006 Jasper District Commissioners Zenie Ingram, Robert Cope, Gordon Wells, Thomas Stanley, and C.M. Danzler.

A new Blue Heron billboard, used as the newsletter banner, was designed by Adams Outdoor Advertising & funded by County A-tax.

Environmental Education

In 2006, over 800 students participated in environmental education programs led by volunteers and part-time staff at the Blue Heron. Shown here, students from Holy Cross School learn about animal furs. Other programs are listed on-line and include:

<Fish Printing> <Tracks & trails> <Field Ecology> <Wildlife Habitats>





Teachers Mentoring Teachers—Jasper School District sponsored this teachers program last fall that included a natural resources component.

Action for a Cleaner Tomorrow—this early 2006 teacher workshop emphasized recycling education.

View our other workshop opportunities on-line!

Keep Jasper Beautiful

Lowcountry Wildland Urban Interface Council

This interagency cooperative was formed in late 2005 to educate



homeowners about reducing their risk to wildfire in the Wildland Urban Interface. This partnership effort was successful in securing a **Prescribed Fire Resolution** in Jasper County, initiated to increase education about the benefits of prescribed fire as a management tool. Information on the Council and upcoming events are available at the Blue Heron and coming soon to our website.

Seminar's

NRCS Corner

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) supplies resources for the technical conservation programs in Jasper County. Primarily, their assistance is through Farm Bill programs that provide funding for conservation management.

This year, around \$30,000 was provided through Farm Bill programs administered by NRCS in Jasper County. Conservation practices of some of the 2007 participants will include:

- Small Farmer Program—the farmer will plant Bermuda grass and will eventually run cattle after establishment.
- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)—three applicants were funded for longleaf planting, warm season grass planting, and other wildlife enhancing practices.
- Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)—landowner will enhance wildlife habitat through prescribed fire, longleaf planting, and several other practices.



The Keep Jasper Beautiful Program organizes an annual Spring event as part of the Great American Cleanup and Earth Day. Over 300 Jasper County first and second graders participated in the 2006 outing that included a puppet show, clean-ups around the Town of Ridgeland, and parade to the Blue Heron Nature Trail. Shown here, volunteers Jeremy and Logan Plantand pick up along the nature trail.



2007 Jasper Conservation District

Gordon Wells, Chairman Zenie Ingram, Commissioner C.M. Dantzler, Commissioner Tommy Stanley, Commissioner Zachary Zoul, Commissioner Robert Cope, Honorary Commissioner Rachel Tiller, Associate Commissioner Delia Caskey, Center Director Antron Williams, NRCS Lindsay Fairchilds, SCDNR

Soil and Water Conservation Board meetings: Monthly, every 2nd Wednesday at 8 am at BHLC. Open to the public.

Keep Jasper Beautiful meetings: Monthly, every, 2nd Thursday at 10 am at BHLC. Open to the public.

Jasper Elects New Commissioners Zoul and Stanley

Zachary Zoul and Tommy Stanley were elected as the new Commissioners in November. Zachary serves as the Operations Manager at the 20,000 acre community, Palmetto Bluff. He also brings 25 years experience in municipal government and has served as City Manager in three cities in Minnesota, Nebraska, and Florida. Zachary lives in Hardeeville with his wife and two teenage sons.



Tommy Stanley, a USC graduate, is the Owner and Operator of TGS Land Survey and

has been acting commissioner throughout 2006. He is an avid sportsman and lifelong conservationist. The late Carol Stanley, who also served as a Commissioner in Jasper County, is his Uncle. Tommy and his wife Tyler, both Jasper County natives, hunt together and reside in Early Branch.

We are blessed to have them both!

Ingram and Wells Receive 30 Year Pins

In recognition of their 30 years of service as Conservation District Commissioners, Zenie Ingram and Gordon Wells were awarded 30 year pins from the South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts. We thank them for their dedication to the District's mission and their years of service.



Gordon Wells Wins Soil & Water Conservation Society Honor Award

Gordon Wells was surprised to learn that he was selected as the Soil and Water Conservation Society's Honor Award Recipient for South Carolina. Gordon has served as a Commissioner since 1976 and as the Chairman for the past 12 years. Specifically, the Society recognized his fundraising efforts, environmental education focus, and community involvement. In addition to his work with the District, Wells is an avid sportsman and was featured on the Outdoor Channel's "Turkey Call: The Gordon Show" program. He participates in a variety of Farm Bill programs, works as a dog handler for Okeetee Club, and has a history of wildlife management. Gordon's nomination will be submitted for national consideration on behalf of South Carolina.

Jasper Soil & Water Conservation District 2007 Affiliate Membership Form

NAME:				
ADDRESS:				
PHONE/E-MAIL:				
RENEWAL: 🏻	NEW: ☐ ***********************************	****	****	***
	FISH FUNDER	\$50-99		*
	ALLIGATOR APPLAUDER	\$100-499		*
	BUCK BACKER	\$500+	□ ******	* * ***

Cut this form out, complete and return with check to: JSWCD, 321 Bailey Lane, Ridgeland, SC 29936, 843.726.7611

2006 Year In Review Page 3

The Jasper Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) is composed of three elected and two appointed commissioners that serve voluntarily to oversee the conservation efforts for Jasper County. The mission of the Jasper County Soil and Water Conservation District is to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment by promoting wise land use practices, environmental education, and technical assistance. Goals include education, assistance, partnerships, natural resource opportunities, and legislative efforts.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!!!

http://www.dnr.sc.gov/conservation/districtsdnr/jasper/index.html



INSERT ADRESS

Jasper Soil and Water Conservation District 321 Bailey Lane Ridgeland, SC 29936